Study by ICAR regarding nutritional value of Potato

*99. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Council of Agricultural Research had recently conducted a study on potatoes and had found that potato is a balanced vegetable having nutritive values;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that this vegetable is discarded by people on the ground that it lacks high quality protein contents; and

(d) if so, what are the protein contents in potatoes according to the study made by the ICAR?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Potato contains 15-18 per cent starch, 22.5 per cent Proteins, 5 per cent lysine, 1.0 per cent minerals, 0.6 per cent fibres, 0.1 per cent fats and about 20 mg per 100 mg. vitamin-C.

(c) Some people have wrong notion that potatoes do not contain enough high quality protein.

(d) Potato contains 2-2. 5 per cent protein on fresh weight basis. On a dry weight basis protein content in potato is about 8-10 per cent.

Problems of the fertilizer industry

*100. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Fertilizer Association of India (FAI) the fertilizer industry in the country is facing very hard times despite an increase in the subsidy in the 1989-90 budget;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to further review the condition of the fertilizer industry in the country; and

(c) if so, what further concessions Government propose to give to the fertilizer industry?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) to (c) With a view to reduce the ever increasing burden of subsidy, Government have recently fixed higher norms of capacity utilisation and longer period of depreciation effective from 1st April, 1988 in the retention price and subsidy scheme. The Fertilizer Association of India has represented against this decision and has pointed out that the industry may face a hard time as a result of the above decision. The Government is examining the representation receivd from Fertilizer Association of India and others in this regard.

Sale of Moong|Moong dal to Army Purchase Organisation by NCCF, Delhi branch without assessment of market rates

465. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether NCCF, Delhi Branch obtained an order for supply of 2000 MTs Moong|Moong dal to Army Purchase Organisation in October|November 1987;

(b) whether it is a fact that Branch Manager, Delhi Branch in NCCF offered very low rates to APO without counter arrangements of stocks and market assessment of rates;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in fulfilling the commitment made by its Branch Manager, NCCF had to provide Bank Guarantee to APO for covering the Risk Purchases by the APO on behalf of NCCF; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken against the Branch Manager responsible for bringing avoidable losses to NCCF?